

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

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TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT: AMERICAN JEWISH LEADER STRESSES U.S. SUPPORT
FOR ISRAEL

1. RABBI ISRAL MILLE, CHAIRMAN OF CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS
OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN UNITED STATES, S.
SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IN PRESS INTERVIEWS DURING DEC 30 - JAN 3
VISIT IN ISRAEL AS HEAD OF 24MEMBER DELEGATION.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, RABBI MILLER DESCRIBED HIS
RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER AS
"VERY WARM AND FRIENDLY." HE STATED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD
RAFFIRMED AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL'S INTEGRITY WITHOUT
ANY RESERVATIONS OR QUALIFICAIONS.

3. RABBI MILLER REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED MOOD IN UNITED STTTES
TOWARD ISRAEL AS POSITIVE. HE NOTED THAT COMMITMENTS MADE
BY U.S. TO ISRAEL, INCLUDING SHIPMENT OF MILITARY SUPPLIES,
HAVE BEEN KEPT. IN TV INTERVIEW, RABBI MILLER EMPHASIZED
THAT DESPITE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, U.S. HAS
KEPT ITS PROMISES TO ISRAEL, CITING ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
ASSISTANCE AND JACKSON AMENDMENT TO FOREIGN TRADE BILL.

4. MILLER DID INDICATE TO PRESS THAT " THERE ARE CLOUDS
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WHICH ARE PART OF AMERICAN LIFE WHICH AFFECT RELATIONSHIPS

BEYOND THE BORDERS OF THE UNITED STATES. HE CITED ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES IN U.S. WHICH COULD MAKE FUTURE SUPPLY OF AID MORE DIFFICULT. LINKAGE BETWEEN ENERGY PROBLEM AND PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST WAS MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE ADVERSE FACTOR IN AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL AS WELL AS GROWING USE OF WORD "INTRANSIGENT" BY SOME POLITICAL COMMENTATORS WHEN DESCRIBING ISRAEL'S POSITION--LARGELY AS RESULT OF ARAB PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN.

5. CONFERENCE DELEGATION RECEIVED EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS FROM PM RABIN, SENIOR CABINET AND IDF OFFICIALS AND ALSO MET WITH OPPOSITION LIKUD POLITICAL LEADERS. IN COMMENTING TO PRESS ON IMPRESSIONS IN ISRAEL, RABBI MILLER SAID THAT PM RABIN SPOKE MUCH MORE CONFIDENTLY THAN EVER BEFORE AND PRAISED HIS "SUPERB CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS" OF SITUATION. OTHER MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT BEFORE VISIT THEY HAD FELT ISRAEL WAS "MUDDLING THROUGH" BUT THEY HAVE NOW BEEN REASSURED AS RESULT OF PM'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS OVERALL STRATEGIC PLAN. MILLER ALSO STATED THAT HIS GROUP WAS HEARTENED BY CONFIDENCE SHOWN IN ISRAEL AFTER PESSIMISTIC REPORTS APPEARING IN AMERICAN PRESS.

6. COMMENT: AS RESULT OF FAIRLY EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE ACCORDED RABBI MILLER AND HIS OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH WIDE RANGE OF ISRAELI LEADERS, WE BELIEVE HIS VISIT HAS BEEN VERY USEFUL IN COUNTERING CRITICISM OF US MID-EAST POLICY AND MODERATING ISRAELI CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE EROSION IN U.S. SUPPORT OF ISRAEL.
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